

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w).
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative is a salt or an ester of hyaluronic acid (HA).
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at the most 90% (w/w) of said gelatin.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge, wherein said sponge absorbs less water than an absorbable gelatin sponge.

11. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 10, wherein the ratio between the water absorbed by the haemostatic sponge and the water absorbed by an absorbable gelatin sponge is at the most 0.95 when determined in accordance with USP 24.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the haemostatic sponge is covered by a top sheet.

15. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 14, wherein the top sheet is removable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is dry.

18. (Previously presented) A haemostatic paste prepared by pre-wetting the haemostatic composition according to claim 1 with a liquid to create said paste.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting haemostasis in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying the haemostatic composition according to claim 1, or the paste according to claim 18, onto at least a portion of an area where bleeding is present.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering an agent to an intended local site of a patient, said method comprising the step of including the agent in the composition of claim 1, or in the paste of claim 18, and delivering the agent to the local site of the patient.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for arresting bleeding in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying to the site of bleeding the haemostatic composition according to claim 1 or the paste according to claim 18.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a haemostatic composition comprising the steps of:

- i) mixing a biologically absorbable material and hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof, and a solvent, and
- ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein said method comprises a further step of drying the mixture obtained in step i) before treating the mixture with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C according to step ii).

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing the haemostatic composition according to claim 17, said method comprising the steps of:

- i) mixing gelatin, hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, and a solvent; and
- ii) drying said mixture.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27, wherein said method further comprises a step of stabilising the mixture obtained in said step ii).

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23, wherein the mixing of the biologically absorbable material, hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, and a solvent is performed by any of the following alternatives:

- a) mixing a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof and subsequently adding a solvent;
- b) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof;
- c) mixing a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof;
- d) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said mixing is performed under mechanical influence.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of stabilising the mixture obtained in said step ii) comprises treating the mixture with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C or treating the mixture with a compound capable of chemically cross-linking the mixture.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said method further comprises a step of sterilization of the mixture.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein the biologically absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, collagen, chitin, chitosan, alginate, cellulose, oxidised cellulose, oxidised regenerated cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC),

hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), polyglycolic acid, polyacetic acid, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is provided in the form of a gel.

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed at a temperature from about 20°C to about 40°C, or at about 30°C.

38. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is conducted for about 6 to about 24 hours, or for about 16 hours.

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed by freeze-drying.

40. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

i) mixing a biologically absorbable material and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, and a solvent, and

ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C.

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27 wherein said mixing is performed by whipping, stirring, spinning, static mixing, motionless mixing or centrifugation.

42. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition by cross-linking by using dry heat at 110-200°C.

43. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) are cross-linked by using dry heat at 110-200°C.

44. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, wherein said composition does not comprise collagen.

45. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition and wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA), or derivative thereof, has a molecular weight of from 1,500 to 5,000 kDa.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to any of claims 1, 42 or 45, wherein said composition does not comprise collagen.

48. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 85% (w/w).

49. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 80% (w/w).

50. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 75% (w/w).

51. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 70% (w/w).

52. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 65% (w/w).

53. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 60% (w/w).

54. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 15% (w/w).

55. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 20% (w/w).

56. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 25% (w/w).

57. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 30% (w/w).

58. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 35% (w/w).

59. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 40% (w/w).

60. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) is chemically cross-linked.

61. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) is physically cross-linked.

62. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) has a pH value in the range of from 5 to 9.

63. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative ~~is a can be selected from the group consisting of esters of hyaluronic acid, hyaluronate salt[[s]] of hyaluronic acid[[],] hyaluronic acid salified with organic bases, hyaluronic acid salified with inorganic bases, hyaluronic acid salified with organic and/or inorganic bases, Hyaff®, hyaluronic acid esters with alcohols of the aliphatic, araliphatic, cycloaliphatic, aromatic, cyclic and heterocyclic series, with an esterification degree that may vary depending on the type and length of the alcohol used, Hyadd®, amides of hyaluronic acid with amines of the aliphatic, araliphatic, cycloaliphatic, aromatic, cyclic and heterocyclic series, with an amidation degree that may vary depending on the type and length of the amine used, Hyoxx®, percarboxylated hyaluronic acid derivatives obtained by oxidation of the primary hydroxyl group of the N acetyl D glucosamine unit, deacetylates of hyaluronic acid, and O-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivatives.~~

64-85. (Canceled)

86. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

87. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

88. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

89. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

90. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

91. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

92. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

93. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

94. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

95. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 44, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

96. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 44, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

97. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 44, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

98. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 45, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

99. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 45, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

100. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 45, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

101. (New) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA), or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) and at most 90% (w/w), and wherein said gelatin is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) and at most 90% (w/w).